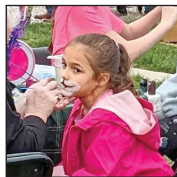




Air Tigers
robotics p. 15



American Legion
egg hunt, p.16

Staffing Issue Gets Council Meeting Off to a Hot Start

by Diane Oberg

The March 25 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council got off to a hot start with former city human resources director Mary Johnson accusing the city manager of violating city code. In addition, council approved several contracts, received an update on planned renovations to the Municipal Building and sent a letter to county officials regarding the proposed service changes to TheBus.

Code Violation?

Johnson noted that City Manager Josué Salmerón has dismissed his executive assistant. She said that this employee had worked for the city for 29 years with a “stellar record of service,” and was just months away from qualifying for retirement. The dismissal is tied to a staff restructuring that is only just being proposed. Johnson said that the city code requires that any restructuring or reclassification of staff requires prior approval by council. In addition to being contrary to city code and personnel regulations, Johnson said this action was also at odds with the city’s past approach to its employees. Having received no responses to

the email she sent to all councilmembers last week, she asked council, “Did you approve this?” There was no response from council at this meeting, other than Councilmember Rodney Roberts’ comment that he currently had no access to email.

In an interview with the News Review, Salmerón had a different take on the issue. Based upon consultations with the director of human resources and the city solicitor, he was confident his actions were legal. He agreed that she had been a strong performer but said that many of the functions she previously performed have now been automated. Others, such as pulling together information for the budget, are now performed by others, such as the Public Information Office. As city manager, when a position has become obsolete, it is his responsibility to redirect those resources.

Salmerón said that council was aware of his efforts to improve efficiency although he declined to say whether he had told council of the specifics, citing the need to keep manager-

See **STAFFING**, page 10

Aquatic Egg Hunt Delights All



PHOTO BY JASON ANDREW

Anneliese Hau-Andrew holds onto an egg under water at the Aquatic Center’s Egg Hunt.

On Friday, March 29, the City of Greenbelt held its annual underwater egg hunt at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. The Egg Hunt is broken into three age groups. The first, for the youngest hunters 6 months to 5 years old,

was at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. 4- to 11-year-olds took over the wading and shallow area and at noon the bigger swimmers from 8- to 15-year-olds swam for eggs in the deep end of the pool.

Though the eggs were empty they were plenty of fun to swim for and each youngster took home a goody bag at the end.

See **MORE PHOTOS INSIDE**

PGCPS Makes Transportation Changes to Rectify Longtime Woes

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

During his first 90 days, Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) new superintendent, Millard House II, acknowledged persistent challenges in the area of student transportation, and called for a transportation audit. That audit was conducted September through December 2023 and the administration plans to implement changes based on its results as soon as August.

For the 2024-2025 school year, there will be five changes for PGCPS students:

1. Standardized bell times
2. Bus stops are moving
3. Reassessment of bus stops in walk zones
4. Ridership assessments and tracking
5. Better tracking

Standardized Times

Standard start times have been announced as 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Those times were said to correspond to elementary, middle and high schools respectively but PGCPS has since removed that part of the announcement. The new start and end bell times for each school will be available this month, at the latest by the April 25 board of education meeting. The goal of standardizing bell times is to

Opportunity	Operational Efficiency	Max Annual Savings*
#1. Bell Time Alignment and Pairing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shift bell times later at enough schools to impact 300-400 tripsEliminate up to 119 buses	\$16.9 million
#2. Service Level Differentiation and Targeted Stop Consolidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase average stop distance from 0.24 miles to 0.46 milesRemoval of 22 percent of stopsEliminate up to 69 buses	\$9.8 million
#3. Walk Zone Audits and Modeshifting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Audit exceptions for 22,000 students residing in school walk boundariesEliminate up to 282 buses	\$40 million
#4. Diversify Modal and Vendor Mix	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Switch more than 1,100 trips from buses to lower-cost vans or sedans	\$13 million

COURTESY PGCPS

Areas identified for change by the transportation audit, which was conducted for PGCPS by the company 4MATIV

improve efficiency and to allow an hour between multiple different runs using a single vehicle and/or driver. The transportation audit stated that aligning bell times could reduce trips from the current 1,008 a day to 889. “This substantial decrease of 119 vehicles would significantly reduce the current driver shortage and produce robust cost savings. At a current cost of \$779.74 per vehicle per day, the district could save up to \$92,000 per day and \$16.9 million annually through bell time optimization,” it reported. For more on changing bell times, see the article on p. 8.

Moving Stops

Currently a third of students have bus stops within 0.1 mile of their home, reported PGCPS

executives at the March Board of Education meeting. They plan to extend walking times to stops in order to reduce ride times on the buses. PGCPS policy allows for stops to be located up to 1.5

See **TRANSPORT**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, April 8
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, April 10
No Council Meeting

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

City Council Thrashes Toward Some Positions on Recycling

by Cathie Meetre

At the March 13 council worksession, City Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll addressed potential funding and initiatives related to the prevention of illegal dumping at three city facilities: the recycling center at Buddy Attick Park, the area next to the Northway ballfields and a lesser-known city recycling facility on Hanover Drive (see map, p.12). The re-

quest included money for gates, fencing and surveillance. But council rapidly segued into a more wide-ranging discussion of alternatives that also considered overall access to recycling facilities by resident homeowners and illegal access by others.

At the core of the discussion were the additional costs of

See **RECYCLING**, page 12

ERHS Murals

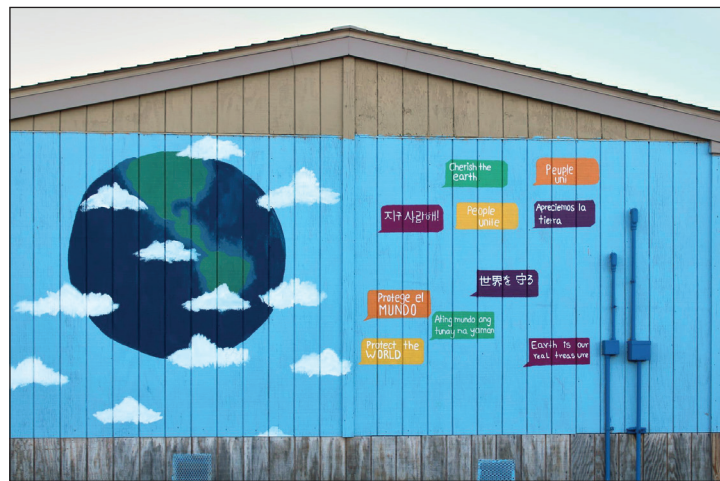


PHOTO COURTESY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

Temporary 9’s mural showcases a painting of the Earth and colorful text bubbles calling for protection and appreciation. See story p. 9.

Letters to the Editor

Clarity Needed From PGCPs

As a Greenbelt mother of a second grader at Glenarden Woods Elementary School (GWES), I'm deeply concerned about the proposed bell time changes for next school year in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). As reported by the Greenbelt News Review, bell times may go to 7:30 a.m. for all elementary schools, 8:30 a.m. for all middle schools and 9:30 a.m. for all high schools.

According to the PGCPS website, "90 percent of schools are expected to have no change or a shift of 15 minutes or less."

However, after comparing current bell times to the proposed ones, 53 percent of schools will have a change of 16 minutes or more. Both GWES and Greenbelt Elementary (GES) will have their bell times moved up considerably to 7:30 a.m. GWES by 120 minutes and GES by 105 minutes.

If PGCPS wants to make busing more efficient, it makes little sense to put all elementary schools – 62 percent of all schools – on the same bell time.

The proposed end time bells will also push all high school students into rush hour travel times. Have they consulted with local transit agencies on the impact? Or with sports and other after-school programs?

Has PGCPS consulted with aftercare programs? Under the proposal, GWES and GES would now end around 1:40 p.m. Assuming that the aftercare program can even accommodate this new schedule, our student would be there for approximately four hours daily next year.

While I applaud PGCPS for undertaking a transportation audit, I'm frustrated that they did not give parents and other stakeholders a chance to make public

comments. Instead, they put the announcement on a website during spring break, and I'm not aware of any official notification from PGCPS.

I would like clarity from PGCPS regarding the difference in math regarding schools impacted, ensure that they consult with local public transit agencies and aftercare programs, and open the proposal to public comment. I suggest anyone concerned join me in emailing PGCPS Superintendent Millard House II at superintendent@pgcps.org and our Board of Education Representative Jonathan Briggs at jonathan.briggs@pgcps.org.

Lauren Silberman

Better to Incinerate

Policy and climate goals in Europe have promoted incinerators over landfills for decades – the 1999 landfill directive explicitly advocated moving away from burying waste and toward combusting it. Incinerators avoid methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that issues from landfills thanks to decomposing organic matter, and the power the facilities provide was considered cleaner compared with other options, like coal.

This was published by the EPA: epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-04/documents/a_citizens_guide_to_incineration.pdf.

Randall Crenwelge



Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
APRIL 5th - 11th

Wicked Little Letters (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (100 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

Problemista (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (98 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM
Sun. 4:45 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM (OC)
Wed. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Ghost in the Shell (R) (1995)
(83 mins)
Cinema Pop!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 8:00 PM subbed



THAT'S RIGHT, SWEETIE -
ALL THE WAY TO THE LAST STOP,
THEN WE'RE HOME. AS LONG AS
THEY DIDN'T CUT THE 612 BUS!

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Wicked Little Letters

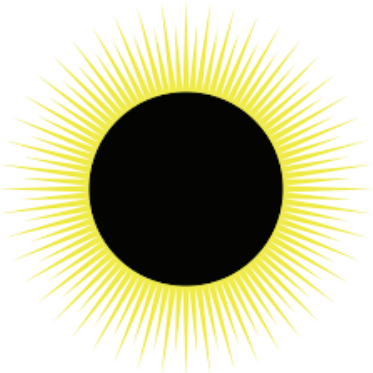
A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a farcical and occasionally sinister scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger-than-fiction true story, the film follows two neighbors: deeply conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues. However, as the town's women – led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasan) – begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss, and Rose may not be the culprit after all.

Problemista

Alejandro (Julio Torres) is an aspiring toy designer from El Salvador struggling to bring his unusual ideas to life in New York City. As time runs out on his work visa, a job assisting an erratic art-world outcast (Tilda Swinton) becomes his only hope to stay in the country and realize his dream. From writer/director Julio Torres (who created Los Espookys on HBO Max) comes a surreal adventure through the equally treacherous worlds of New York City and the U.S. Immigration system.

Ghost in the Shell

In this Japanese adult animated neo-noir cyberpunk thriller, cyborg federal agent Maj. Motoko Kusanagi (Mimi Woods) trails The Puppet Master (Abe Lasser), who illegally hacks into the computerized minds of cyborg-human hybrids. Her pursuit of a man who can modify the identity of strangers leaves Motoko pondering her own makeup and what life might be like if she had more human traits. With her partner (Richard George), she corners the hacker, but her curiosity about her identity sends the case in an unforeseen direction. From director Mamoru Oshii, the film is based on the manga of the same name by Masamune Shirow.



Through GCF Grant, CHEARS Takes Magic Rabbit Tricks at Rec Dept.

by Maggie Cahalan and Geraldine Adams

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS), a 501(c)(3) organization, along with its partners is pleased to announce receipt of a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) to launch a special new project in 2024. This project is the Co-Learning to Prepare and Eat Low-Environmental Impact and High Health Heritage Foods: Supporting the Great Food Transition for Climate Food Justice and Equity. Project partners include Steam Onward/Ujamaa Co-operative Farming Alliance (UCFA), Heathcote Education Center/School of Living, the Rotary Club of Greenbelt, Connecting Across Greenbelt and Food For Life.

Clear evidence shows that both humans and the planet face health issues that can only be addressed by a radical change in our individual food choices and the global food production system. Scientists with the Global Footprint Network have developed graphs showing the stark statistic that, if everyone on the planet had a lifestyle and diet like the United States, it would take 5.1 Earths to sustain the human population.

This solutions-based co-learning project takes a climate justice and equity perspective to help community members incorporate sustainable food choices into their diet for both Earth's health and their own personal health.

As the EAT-Lancet Commission 2019 report notes: "Food systems have the potential to nurture human health and support environmental sustainability, however our current trajectories threaten both." The Commission recommends a "Great Food Transition with increased consumption of plant-based foods – including fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and whole grains – while in many settings substantially limiting animal source food." The good news is that this food transition will make it possible to feed Earth's expected 10 billion people by 2050 and greatly reduce our climate impact. At the same time, a transition to more plant-based foods and less animal products will significantly improve human health because, as a recent

National Academy of Science article concludes, foods with low environmental impact also have high health benefits.

Project goals include: (1) Support certification training for volunteers from CHEARS and partners to use the Community Center kitchen; (2) co-learning to prepare and preserve plant-based low-environmental impact foods grown using heritage culturally meaningful seeds such as those from UCFA; (3) hold educational workshops in the Community Center dining room featuring a Climate Food Justice presentation and tasty dinner prepared by workshop participants with low-impact high-health local foods and beverages; (4) measure and report impacts on the CHEARS website with an interactive Stella Model; and (5) hold a Climate Food Justice Community Summit and Feast around the winter solstice 2024, featuring low-impact high-health foods.

CHEARS looks forward to having members of the Greenbelt community, and beyond, join in this important program. CHEARS and its partners wish to foster cooperation and access to its programs, inviting all from diverse heritages to participate. Watch the Greenbelt News Review for announcements of upcoming project activities beginning in early May. For more information contact Geraldine Adams (ghadamsr@gmail.com) or Maggie Cahalan (maggie@chears.org).

Through GCF Grant, CHEARS Takes Magic Rabbit Tricks at Rec Dept.



Congratulations to the community robotics club, the Air Tigers, on winning the Engineering Inspiration Award at the recent First Robotics Competition.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Stream Cleanup Coming April 19

Springhill Lake Elementary School will be hosting their annual Stream Cleanup on Friday, April 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. Come out and share what these amazing students are doing.

PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON

Greenbelt Recreation Department treated seniors and others to an afternoon of magic on February 14. Although the program was advertised for those 60 years and up, about 50 magic lovers of all ages were enthralled by magician Steve Kish. Kish encouraged everyone in the audience to participate in his card tricks. The children were enthusiastic participants in his magic out-of-the-hat tricks, including at least one beautiful white bunny. There was lots of laughter and applause, and a great time was had by all.



Montpelier Festival Coming on April 27

The Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Tea and the Arts, on Saturday, April 27, will include live music, cooking and gardening talks, and kids' activities. It will last from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

"The light of men is Justice. Quench it not with the contrary winds of oppression and tyranny. The purpose of justice is the appearance of unity among men." – Bahá'u'lláh

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc) [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

We are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
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www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

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Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

April 7 3 p.m.

Let Us Lift Our Hearts Toward Hope

Rev. Diane Teichert with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

We must not turn away from the heartbreaking violence in Gaza—a conflict with ancient roots, furthered by 20th century colonial politics, fought today with US weapons. Through stories and songs that reaffirm our UU Principle "Interdependence" let's mend and lift our hearts for the work that is ours to do toward the possibility of peace. A song video early in the service will be appropriate for young children.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:30 pm

- ORGANIZATION**
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions
- COMMUNICATIONS**
Presentations
- Autism Awareness Month Proclamation
* Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
* Committee Reports
- LEGISLATION**
Resolution to Permit Concurrent Membership on Multiple Advisory Boards and Committee Volunteers (1st Reading)
- OTHER BUSINESS**
- Story Walk Project
- Authorizing City Manager to Execute Contract with Budget Painting, LLC for painting SLRC
- Purchase of One (1) Public Works Box Truck 2024
- Red-Light Camera Contract Agreement
- ARPA Status Update
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholder List
*Appointment to Advisory Board/Committee
*Acceptance of the DEI Report
In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 8-12

Wednesday, April 10 at 7:30 pm, **NO MEETING**

Thursday, April 11 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024

MAY 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM
Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center,
101 Centerway

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 16,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, ecofriendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100 Pit stops in the regional area.

Register at biketoworkmetrodc.org;
Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov (240) 542-2053.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(3) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024, immediately following the Regular Council Meeting, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto; and

*** The public may attend the Regular Council Meeting prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, April 8, 2024.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE

www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide

Registration currently open. Sign-up today!



CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- April Emergency Diaper Program
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (*Greenbelt West Residents Only*)
Upcoming Dates: April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS.

WEED WARRIORS: INVASIVE PLANT PULL

APRIL 6, 10 AM - 1 PM

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species.

Register by email at kdriescoll@greenbeltmd.gov.



Are you interested in GREENBELTMD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?

For more information, call (240) 542-2044 or email economics@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS
APRIL 18, & MAY 16
TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

Open Registration

Please remember that you must register each month.

Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent's name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate.

To register: <https://forms.gle/uYJLegTD7HGjaAz76> or call (240) 424-0302.



GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

Grants include:

- Childcare Vouchers, Healthcare Vouchers, Higher Education Scholarships
- First-Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance, Workforce Development
- Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Create Paper Cutouts Inspired by Henri Matisse with Artist Barbara Combs

Sunday, April 7, 1-3 pm, Community Center GFE - Details <https://bit.ly/3TfSoKI>.

Sunday, April 14, 1-3 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln - Details <https://bit.ly/3VfZ0Lq>.

WELCOME KITS

The City of Greenbelt's Public Information Office is now accepting items (e.g., flyers, pens, calendars, maps, postcards, brochures, tchotchkes, etc.) to be added to the 2024 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. If you want to include any information about your business, club, or organization, please send 200 promotional items to

25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

by Friday, April 19.

Contact candrews@greenbeltmd.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag.



Jordan Owens, Teen Author, Launches Novel, Plans More

by Lois Rosado

Jordan Owens launched his first published book on Saturday, March 23 at the Community Center in the city he calls home. As a youngster, he told me, he grew up watching horror movies and reading suspense books like those written by Steven Spielberg and Stephen King. Jordan wanted to grow up and write classics that people would enjoy, and structure characters based on the different horror aspects he viewed in the films and books he saw and read.

At age 9, Jordan informed his mother, Lissa Owens, that he was ready to write his story and requested a typewriter. Influenced by the writers in old shows and movies, like Rod Serling’s Twilight Zone, he noted that those writers used typewriters. Jordan’s mother, ever encouraging, found a typewriter for her young progeny. Finding appropriate ribbons and carbon paper proved to be more challenging, so he decided that current technology – his laptop – was better for his budding literary career.

Entitled The Witching Hour, Jordan’s book is about three friends who stumble across a music box that, when opened, awakens a demon. The book is a well-written story, and shows that Jordan has the imagination and talent to become a good writer. At his Greenbelt book signing on March 23, Jordan sold 50 books and had sold a further 84 on Amazon.

Jordan likes playing baseball and hopes to continue being engaged in that sport also. Jordan attends the Avalon School for boys in Wheaton, where he studies Latin and where there is a strong emphasis on Shakespeare, which he really likes, according to his mother. Lissa says that his freshman class has just 15 students and the personalized attention is helpful for Jordan’s



Jordan, seated, with his brother Justin and mother Lissa Owens at his book signing event



Jordan Owens at play

growth and development.

She is very proud of her son’s accomplishment and is equally gratified that her eldest son, Justin, who graduates from St. Vincent Pallotti High School in May, will attend North Carolina A&T State University in the fall on a full four-year Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy academic scholarship. Justin praised the talents and achievements of his younger brother and expects to see more publications from him in the future.

There are many talented youths living in Greenbelt doing and achieving marvelous things like Jordan and Justin Owens.

Double Periodical Cicadas Expected in 2024 but Not Here

by Laura Moore

We are used to animals and plants being on a yearly cycle. When the weather warms up in the spring, flowers bloom, bees emerge from overwintering and birds chirp and look for mates. Life begins once again. The same predator species consume the same prey species from year to year, so populations maintain a balance over time.

Periodical Cicadas

However, in some years, there’s an explosion of millions of clumsy, loud, shrimp-sized, slow-flying prey insects: periodical cicadas, of the genus Magicicada. These insects have been living underground for years, waiting to disrupt the local ecology with their strange timing. In early spring, they emerge en masse, molt into adults and take to the trees to boisterously search for mates. At the end of the season, the females lay batches of eggs in the branches of trees and shrubs. After some weeks, nymphs emerge and drop to the ground. They burrow and stay underground for 13 or 17 years, waiting for their time to emerge. If there are still trees in the vicinity, the new generation will be able to start their life cycle again.

Avoiding Predators

According to Dr. Mike Raupp, an emeritus professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, the most plausible theory for this prime-number year schedule is predator satiation. With an occasional mass emergence, predators are too over-



Brood X Magicicadas in Greenbelt, May 2021

whelmed to make much of a dent in cicada population numbers. And predator species (e.g. birds, frogs and snakes) are unlikely to be on the same schedule, so their increased numbers won’t last until the next cicada emergence.

Greenbelt last saw this phenomenon in 2021, when Brood X gave us a loud summer after a 17-year hiatus. Greenbelt is fortunate to have many acres of intact forest, increasing the probability that emerging cicadas will be able to create the next generation. In other locations, cicadas emerge to an inhospitable habitat or are prevented from emerging altogether by a developed hardscape.

Magicicada

Brood X is one of many broods across Eastern North America. Some broods are of the 13-year variety and others of the

17-year variety, in addition to the annual cicadas we see every year. These different broods are on staggered schedules in different regions, reducing the likelihood that one brood will encounter another. But occasionally (specifically, every 221 years), a 13-year brood will emerge at the same time and location as a 17-year brood. This is expected to happen this year in the Midwest but Greenbelt will not get to experience this event. Travel to Springfield, Ill., or nearby to experience the magic of a double dose of Magicicada.

Scientists are not sure what will happen when these different broods encounter each other, says Raupp. Each brood contains multiple species of Magicicada, and species may (to us humans) look similar or even identical. Each species must have a way of finding conspecifics or these populations would not continue. What will happen when cicadas of different broods on different schedules encounter each other? Will mating calls be similar enough that females of Brood XIX mate with males of Brood XIII and vice versa, and if they do, what will it mean? Will they produce viable offspring? If so, would we even know? Science is never “done” – there are always unanswered questions.

Greenbelter Laura Moore is an avid gardener and insect-lover who holds a master’s degree in entomology from the University of Maryland.



BEP Tree Clearing Takes Place



All large trees have been felled on the site of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing currency production facility on Poultry Road, between Powder Mill Road and Odell Road on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The photo was taken on the site, looking southwest toward the buildings along Animal Husbandry Road. Buildings on the site were demolished this past fall.



A happy child enjoys the Aquatic Egg Hunt on Friday, March 29.



Two-year-old Christiane Hau-Andrew is delighted by the eggs in the pool.

- Photos by Jason Andrew



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From a Village in Cameroon To Greenbelt, Then Congress?

by Abigail Taylor

A striking campaign truck made appearances at the Greenbelt Farmers Market last summer. The bold slogan emblazoned on its side reads “Don’t settle for the status quo, we can do better.” The passionate individual behind this display is Gabriel Njinimbot, 50, who seeks to secure a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat representing Maryland’s 4th District. The seat is currently held by Democrat Glenn Ivey, who began a two-year term in January 2023. The next general election is scheduled for November 5, 2024, with the primary election on May 14.

Njinimbot is originally from Cameroon. “We lived in a compound ... a family of almost 20,” he began, as he recalled his childhood. “We were poor but didn’t know it ... what we had we enjoyed.” Njinimbot was born and raised in Bali Nyonga, a small village in northwest Cameroon. Growing up, he said, “We walked seven miles to school each day” and at home “we spent most of the time on the farms, herding and cultivating.” His family’s lifestyle, said Njinimbot, was typical of his neighborhood. He credited his parents’ dedication to education as the reason he was able to attend and graduate both high school and college in Cameroon.

During his formative years, Njinimbot told the News Review, he liked community organizing alongside his education. He shared a memory in which he had organized a citywide strike when a new water company in his village began charging residents for water, an unprecedented action. “We chased them out,” he reminisced with a chuckle.

In the back of his mind Njinimbot had always been certain he’d live in America. He often listened to Voice of America when he was young and loved to receive photos from his relatives living in America. His pathway here, however, remained uncertain until after he graduated college. Then, a chance encounter with a French national, Njinimbot’s brother-in-law’s employer, forever altered his life. The man was deeply impressed with Njinimbot’s drive. After making Njinimbot promise “not to disappoint,” he agreed to pay for Njinimbot’s ticket to America.

Njinimbot then applied to Akron University in Ohio and was accepted. And so he took off to America, at the age of 26, carrying just \$100. Unfortunately, he said, he had misunderstood the extent to which the university gave financial aid. After realizing he could not pay the tuition, he decided to stay with his cousin in College Park and began working.

After some months, he shifted his goals and decided to begin building a life in Maryland. While searching for a place to call home, he found Greenbelt. The name of the city drew him in immediately, as he considers himself close to nature. He started his new life in an apartment in Franklin Park.

This was a difficult, busy time for him, as he was “totally focused on succeeding” and providing for his family back in Cameroon. Days were spent work-



Njinimbot stands by his truck with a group of supporters.

ing in a seafood restaurant in College Park and nights were spent taking computer classes.

In his free time, he enjoyed reading. Taking advantage of their 30-day return policy, Njinimbot would purchase and plow through books from Books-a-Million in Beltway Plaza. His packed schedule did not leave time for much else, but he was able to join a social group for African immigrants. There he met new people and when he found time to socialize, it would be with them.

Njinimbot found love in Greenbelt quickly. He loved hearing the birds chirp and seeing couples go on walks together. The natural beauty of the city provided a pleasant backdrop for his challenging journey. He found the community welcoming, and enjoyed feeling safe walking to and fro.

He also fell in love in Greenbelt, meeting his wife on Cherrywood Terrace. Their favorite dates were playing tennis on the courts by Buddy Attick Park or the University of Maryland. Over the years, his dedication and hard work paid off as he transitioned from a dishwasher to a skilled computer engineer. His expertise and dedication led him to the Baltimore mayor’s Office of Information Technologies where he worked for 18 years. During his tenure, he played a pivotal role in facilitating numerous city services, ranging from housing and police to public works and



Njinimbot stands in front of his truck with a supporter.

- Photos by Abigail Taylor

law departments, among others. Njinimbot went on to earn a law degree and establish multiple small businesses.

Although he eventually moved for work, Greenbelt has remained a “special place”, the first place in America he called home. Now happily married and a father to three children, Njinimbot says he aims to give back to the community that has shaped his journey.

He hopes to represent the interests of the 4th District in Congress and chose Greenbelt as the location for his campaign office. The place where he started his life in America, he said, has a permanent home in his heart.

More information about his campaign can be found at gabrielforcongress.com.

Daisy Scouts Donate Cookies to Public Works and St. Hugh’s

by Amy Knesel



From left, Daisy Scouts Leila Goddard, Maebel Canavan and Evalena McLaughlin of Greenbelt Troop 23021 deliver cookies to Public Works with their leader Amy Knesel (right).

Daisy Girl Scout Troop 23021, comprised of local 6- and 7-year-olds, sold their organization’s flagship cookies for the first time this winter. Throughout sales season, the Scouts learned many important skills: basic entrepreneurship, money handling, public speaking and more.

At the end of cookie season, Scouts were given the opportunity to distribute donated boxes (boxes funded by cash donations during cookie season). After much discussion, they selected two local groups: Greenbelt Public Works and St. Hugh’s Food Pantry.

Scouts Maebel Canavan, Evalena McLaughlin and Leila Goddard were welcomed to the Pub-

lic Works building on March 26 to distribute the donated boxes. They were excited for this opportunity to recognize the important contributions Public Works employees make to Greenbelters’ everyday lives and to the city as a whole. Not only does the troop use city buildings and spaces for their meetings and events, one member is the daughter of Public Works Maintenance Technician Michael Canavan. Canavan accepted the cookies on behalf of his coworkers, stating, “We are filled with gratitude and appreciation for your thoughtfulness and generosity.” The Scouts will donate another 12 boxes to St. Hugh’s Food Pantry in the coming week.



Turtles on a log bask in the sun at Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA



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to participate in hearing research

You will be compensated \$15 to \$20/hour for your time!



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Where? University of Maryland, College Park, MD

What does the research involve? You may be asked to listen to sentences, tones, or noise bursts. You will then be asked to react to a particular sound or sentence. This will take approximately 20 hours scheduled over multiple weeks.

Or you may be asked to complete tasks that involve passively measuring brain activity. This will take approximately 13 to 15 hours scheduled over multiple weeks.

For further details, contact

Ms. Carol Gorham
hearing@umd.edu, 301-405-4236

More Egg Hunt Fun



A view from inside a pool full of eggs and children

PHOTO BY JASON ANDREW

School News

PGCPS Communication Woes Rival Their Transportation Ones

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) shared their plan to implement five transportation changes next year at the March Board of Education meeting. They include a move to three standardized bell times across the county. The changes are in response to a recent transportation audit (for more on the other changes see p. 1). Since that board meeting, PGCPS announced via their website and with an informational flyer that all elementary schools will move to the 7:30 a.m. time, middle and academies to 8:30 a.m. and high schools to 9:30 a.m. However, on Thursday, March 28, PGCPS changed the announcement on their website to one stating only, “To improve transportation efficiency, PGCPS is moving to three standard bell times. A list of new bell times by school for the 2024-25 school year will be shared this spring.” They also removed references to standardizing by school type elsewhere online and changed their flyer.

Administrators announced at the March Board of Education meeting, “We fully recognize that effective and timely communication with all stakeholders will be critical to the implementation of this action plan.” Yet they released bell time information (since removed) and data about the impact of changes that were contradictory and have since remained unreachable for the past week.

Faulty Data?

PGCPS leaders stated to the Board of Education and continue to share on their website that 57 percent of schools are expected to shift 15 minutes or less; 33 percent are expected to have no change; 7 percent are expected to shift 15 to 30 minutes; and 3 percent are projected to shift 31 to 60 minutes. “The vast majority of schools are expected to see no change in bell times, or a shift of 15 minutes or less,” states the PGCPS website. The News Review has analyzed the current start times for schools in the district and reached very different findings. In fact, if schools are moved to the standardized start times that were announced, 44 schools, representing over 22 percent, would experience a change of over one hour, some moving start times as much as two hours and only 6.2 percent would see no change (this analysis did not take into account charter schools, which were not mentioned in the announcement).

As reported last week, this plan will have a significant impact on Greenbelt schools, most notably with Greenbelt Elementary School and Magnolia Elementary School shifting one hour and 45 minutes. Yet it’s unclear if this is truly the plan or an erroneous announcement.

Confusion over Plans

The incompatibility of the impact data with the now-removed

How are school bell times changing?

To improve transportation efficiency, PGCPS is moving to three standard bell times: elementary schools will begin at 7:30 a.m.; Pre-K-8 academies/middle schools will begin at 8:30 a.m.; and high schools will begin at 9:30 a.m. Afternoon release times will vary, dependent on length of the instructional day by school.

A list of new bell times by school for the 2024-25 school year will be shared this spring.

The initial PGCPS announcement of changes beginning next school year. After community members noted that this did not fit with the statistics shown in the pie chart (at right), the system changed the announcement to remove mention of the breakdown by school type.

new times have some speculating that the county doesn’t really plan to move all schools to a single bell for each school type. Board Member for District 2, Jonathan Briggs, who had also been unable to reach PGCPS administration for clarification, suspects this might be the case. He agrees that both the data and the announced times cannot be correct. “I think the bell schedule is going to be what produces the most efficient bus route,” Briggs suggested to the News Review on Tuesday. This might not mean placing all elementary schools at the same time, he said. He suspects some schools will adjust to those standard times but not every one. Some might remain at their current times, suggested Briggs.

Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin said the audit revealed that 20 percent of bus trips were unassigned each day due to staff vacancies, ineffective processes and “imbalanced bell times.” He also noted that a “disproportionate number” began at 7:45 a.m. or earlier, perhaps another indication that the PGCPS won’t be moving their largest number of schools – elementary – to 7:30 a.m.

The fact the data on impact remains on the website but the start times have been pulled leads Briggs to suspect the stated impact is more likely to be accurate than the now-removed times. However, he’s also been unable to get clarity on the plan.

On Tuesday, April 2, Superintendent Millard House II sent an announcement highlighting transportation changes but in it he neither confirmed standard times for each tier of school nor clarified them. “These changes include the streamlining and standardization of school start and end times, and adjustments to bus assignments and bus stop locations,” stated House, with no more specific information or acknowledgement of the previous announcement of times on their website.

No Approval Process

Despite reports from other news sites suggesting changes are being “proposed” or need to be “approved,” it’s important to understand that the five transportation changes, including

the school bell times, are decisions that have been made by PGCPS administration and not the school board. There’s no approval process for what are known as “operational decisions” and the school board will not be taking a vote on the items.

Board members had the opportunity to raise questions and concerns at the March Board Meeting when the administration made an informational presentation to them, but they did not. The fact that they were presented with data about how little impact the changes will have on schools may be one of the reasons. At that meeting, Chief Operating Officer

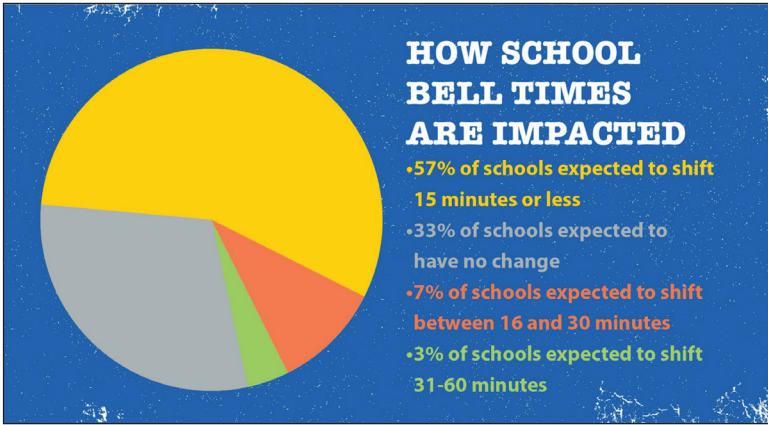
Charoscar Coleman told the board and members of the public in attendance that the new scenario for school times was “a modest change overall to school start and end times yet yields significant results in transportation efficiency and on-time arrival.”

No Response

The mailbox for the PGCPS director of communications has been full since Wednesday of last week. Voicemails left for others and emails sent to administrators remained unanswered at press time.

“It continues to be an issue,” said Briggs about PGCPS communications. “I think communication has been an issue this entire year, from the transportation issue that we had earlier in the year to what we had happened with Dora Kennedy [French Immersion School] to other things around the water filtration systems and confusion around whether there’s lead in the water.” There are ongoing problems with PGCPS failing to “get ahead of information” or failing to properly communicate it, he told the News Review. He’d like to see a focus group for public information releases and efforts to improve effective communication going forward. Briggs agreed the announcement from the superintendent on Tuesday offered no additional helpful information for families who are anxiously waiting to learn which is real, the minimal impact to start times in the administration’s statements or the start times that were announced last week.

TRANSPORT continued from page 1



A PGCPS pie chart shows their projected impact of new bell times on schools. News Review analysis shows the impact of the single bell for each tier of school, as was previously announced, would be significant and very different from this projection.

miles away for elementary school students and 2 miles for middle- and high-school students and those attending specialty schools. The transportation audit suggests a model that will have the average student travelling approximately 0.5 mile to their bus stop.

Walk Zones

A walk zone is the area around a school within which students are considered walkers and not eligible for bus transportation. Under PGCPS policies that means elementary school students living within 1.5 miles of their school and middle- and high-school students living within 2 miles of their school. “Each day we transport thousands of students residing within the walk zone; 26 percent of [the] total transported population,” said COO Charoscar Coleman. According to the transportation audit, 86 percent of those being transported by bus within walk zones are elementary school students. The audit revealed over 22,000 bus riders across 178 schools are being picked up within walk zones. “These walk boundary exceptions come at an extraordinary cost to the district,” stated the audit. “Prince George’s County Public Schools would save more than \$40 million annually if no walk boundary exceptions were granted. The district incurs a cost of more than \$23 million annually from transporting elementary students who reside within their school walk boundary and an additional \$17 million annually from transporting middle and high school students who reside within their school walk boundary.”

At the presentation before the March Board of Education meeting, Board Member Pamela Boozer-Strother (District 3) expressed concerns about talking in terms of cost savings. Creating safe passages is going to

require investment elsewhere, and “it’s going to be expensive,” she warned. “We have these bus routes because these walk paths are dangerous,” said Boozer-Strother. “We know why there’s a bus even though it’s close to school; it’s because of the six- to eight-lane Route 1 or 202,” she told the administration. “The reality is that this is going to create a parent transportation system that we already have, that is already really dangerous in our neighborhoods. Our fully walkable schools have a parent transportation system and it is traffic and it is management and it’s not safe.” Boozer-Strother argued that turning around the pattern of parents driving individual students to school is part of the climate change action plan and health and wellness plans, but she foresaw an increase in such traffic with the removal of bus services to those walk zones, something she sees as dangerous.


Board Member Jonathan Briggs (District 2, including Greenbelt) mentioned the proposed Greenbelt East Trail and efforts to create safe walking paths around Greenbelt Road. He suggested PGCPS partner with other organizations to create and utilize such routes.

Coleman said each walk zone stop audit will generate data that can be shared with partners – need for crossing guards, traffic calming measures, etc.

Tracking Ridership

Forty-one percent of seats on the average school bus trip are unoccupied, say PGCPS administrators. They plan to use “opt-in” and “opt-out” strategies to detect nonriders sooner and “document students who are chronic no-shows.” Board Member Briggs expressed concern that an “opt-in” process is less inclusive than

See **TRANSPORT**, page 9




A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

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Sun (2pm)



Book by **TERRENCE MCNALLY**, Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**, lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**, and based on the film “A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE.” Directed by Julia Arbutus, produced by Greenbelt Arts Center, musical direction by Johanna Alonso.

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com



School News

ERHS Faculty and Students Make The Most of Makeshift Classrooms

by Johana Gonzalez-Cruz

Editor's Note: In September 2023, Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) had an official enrollment of 2,557 students. That's 461 students over the state-rated capacity of the school, or a building utilization of 122 percent. Like many schools, particularly in the north of Prince George's County, ERHS relies on modular temporary classrooms, often referred to as "temps." The community is making the most of them.

In the midst of the school's aging infrastructure, there's a unique charm that catches the eye as students navigate ERHS's campus – the temporary classroom walls. Visible from the outside, the temporary classroom walls have become a canvas for artistic expression and school spirit. These vibrant murals, painted by school faculty and students, include a variety of artwork that shares a theme of environmental appreciation.

From the environmental appreciation mural on Temp 9 (see p. 1) that calls a message to cherish the Earth, to the mural with the painted track field on one half of the Korean classroom's temp and a pair of hands holding the earth on the other half, to the sunset over the trees with the words Welcome to Raider Nation on Temp 2, these murals fill the walls with vibrant hues of red, yellows and orange.

On exiting the dated exteriors of the school campus at the end of a long day, one might find oneself walking by these murals at golden hour as the last bits of the sun strike them, making it the perfect spot to take pictures with friends enjoying the vibrance and youth of teenage years in high school. Although the building may lack sunlight or color at times, it's slowly revived by the efforts of staff and students to add a special Roosevelt touch by painting murals that express the beauty of nature outside, as well as of the school community. There's also art that isn't murals, like the class of 2011's pebble artwork of a town at the main entrance outside or the Japanese Exchange program's art piece near the small cafeteria tables on the first floor.

GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.



The Korean classroom's colorful mural features a painting of the school's track and a pair of hands holding the Earth.



Temp 19's mural shows a person riding a bicycle amid flowers and insects, with a gardener in the background.



This temporary classroom, immediately outside the back entrance to the school, announces Home of the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders.

- Photos courtesy Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Whether a staff member or a student, you are encouraged to take a moment out of your commute throughout the school and admire the vibrance of colors and designs that these murals can bring to the day. Whether that is a nostalgic mural like Temp 13's current and past orange cohort numbers written in black, or a playful mural like Temp 19's of a

person riding their bike with various flowers in the background or, perhaps, there's something new to admire about the art around the school grounds.

Johana Gonzalez-Cruz is a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. This article first appeared in the Raider Review.

TRANSPORT continued from page 8

an "opt-out" one. Superintendent House said they are planning an opt-out system beginning in August and may move toward an opt-in system in phase two (which will commence in the 2025-2026 school year).

At the school board meeting there was no discussion of the factors leading to students becoming "chronic no-shows" at their bus stops but over recent years some parents have found it necessary to drive their children to school when buses regularly don't arrive or arrive so late it's disruptive to students' attendance and parents' work.

Tracking Buses

The final part of the new transportation changes is a "Track in the App" and effective communication process. Currently bus drivers have reported at school board meetings that their technology has been buffering or not connecting, making it impossible for them to connect to the system relaying their location and progress to waiting parents, students and administrators. The administration said that the Stopfinder App that the county uses is unable to track "double-runs" where a driver takes on more than one route (currently the average number of routes per day per vehicle for PGCPs is 2.71). Asked by board members why they were continuing to use the seemingly universally despised Stopfinder App, the administration suggested improvements in other areas will mean fewer doubled routes and that they plan a "rebranding." However, the suggestion of fewer doubled routes seems contradicted by the statements that the bell times are being spaced specifically to allow for doubled routes.

Several board members pushed back on continuing to use Stopfinder and this was the most controversial of the changes for the board. Boozer-Strother asked if there's something new "to raise that level of confidence" in the app and Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin said they would "open up" more options in the app to use capabilities they hadn't yet. Boozer-Strother asked what they'd held back because they said they were doing that before and COO Coleman pointed to reducing doubled runs so it would work more efficiently.

Board Member Brannndon Jackson (District 6) said he want-

ed to go on record saying the people don't want Stopfinder. "I don't know what rebranding we can do. No. We need to look for other opportunities ... There's other companies out there ... I just want to go on record so my community knows that I'm saying that we don't want Stopfinder," he said.

Coleman responded that the administration could consider alternatives in 2025-2026 but didn't want to change too much and "leave our community behind." "I feel like we're already behind with Stopfinder," retorted Jackson.

Vice Chair of the Board Lolita Walker (District 9) said, "I think every community has heard about Stopfinder. As a parent I'm on the picket line about Stopfinder myself." She asks that PGCPs carefully communicate the optimization of a tool that "we already know parents are beside themselves about." She told the administration they'd have to educate the public when they "keep things the same that aren't necessarily working."

Board Member Kenneth Harris (District 7) agreed, "Our communities do not want Stopfinder," but he believed changing it was not a conversation they could have at this point.

Info Sessions Coming

Communications Director Meghan Thornton gave a presentation on a communication and engagement plan. The plan includes information sessions throughout the county, with one in every district "to inform and educate" the public about the coming changes.

All five of these priorities will be implemented in "phase one" of the transportation changes, school year 2024-2025, which begins in August. Additional changes arising from the transportation audit and its suggestions are yet to be announced but a phase two of changes is planned for school year 2025-2026. Discussion indicated later changes might include an "opt-in" ridership model and multimodal transportation beyond school buses.

The author has two children who attend Prince George's County Public Schools.

School Bus Transportation is Changing for the 2024-25 School Year

Improvements to school bus transportation to get students to and from school safely and on time are on the way!

- 1. School Start & End Times are Shifting**
Start and end times for all PGCPs schools are being streamlined.
- 2. Bus Stop Locations are Moving**
Where students get on and off the bus will change for more efficient and timely routes.
- 3. Are You in The Bus Zone?**
Students within walking distance to school who have safe pedestrian routes will no longer receive a bus.
- 4. Don't Need a Bus? Tell Us.**
Opt out of transportation if your child will be a car rider or student driver.
- 5. Track in the App**
Download and use the Stop Finder App for improved and reliable GPS tracking.

PGCPs announces changes beginning next school year.

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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

Neighbors Help Neighbors By Donating Food Monthly

by Robert Goldberg-Strassler

Participation with Greenbelt PORCH at any level in any way makes “neighbors helping neighbors” possible all year long. Many families struggle to put a healthy dinner on their tables, and everyone can make a difference.

This month the newest neighborhood to join Greenbelt PORCH is Pinnacle Property Group apartments, beginning with an April 28 collection.

April food pickups are as scheduled below. Note changes due to Passover.

Sunday, April 14 – by 11 a.m. for 1 to 8 Courts Ridge Road, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent Road and 1 to 2 Courts Westway

Saturday, April 20 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, April 28 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village, 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road

City Notes

Spring Break fun included an Egg Hunt at the lake, an Underwater Egg Hunt at the pool, Spring Break Fast-Break Basketball Clinic at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Spring Circus Camp. Therapeutic Recreation provided inclusion support and supervised camper field trips.

Environmental/Sustainability delivered mulch to pollinator gardens and Parks/Horticulture installed a security camera at the Greenbelt East Recycling Center. Public Works Streets crew helped Berwyn Heights install banners.

Seven dogs, 15 cats and a snake reside at the Animal Shelter. Park rangers supported an Animal Shelter adoption event and completed interpretive bird walk training by Public Works.

The Community Center accommodated Girl Scouts, Golden Age Club, Concert Band, Community Orchestra, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Astronomy Club and 17 rentals. Air filtration units and track lighting were installed in various Arts spaces.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program’s produce distribution served 162 households at the Community Center and 50 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center; their diaper distribution served 36 families.





Sunday, April 28 – by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on April 28 and he will come to your porch.

Sunday, April 28 – by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

Leave donations of nonperishables and hygiene products by the front door, marked RUAK or PORCH and visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome, particularly for the Greenbelt East area. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection, contact Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Greenbelt Quilts Shown At Federal Courthouse

Quilts Across Maryland is currently on display at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse until May 8.

The quilts adorn the walls on three floors of the courthouse’s central atrium, allowing both up-close and distance perspectives of the various works of art.

Works by several Greenbelt quilters are on display: Pat Scully’s Captain’s Wheel and Awesome Ocean, Ann Bauman’s Morning to Midnight in Bryce Canyon and Lidia Carrera’s Brilliant Diamonds, as well as quilts by other members of the Greenbelters’ guildmates from the Southern Comforters of Bowie.

The exhibit is available whenever the Courthouse is open to the public: in general, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays.

STAFFING continued from page 1

council consultations confidential.

Contracts

Ballfields: Council, on a 6 to 1 vote, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed, approved a contract worth \$190,133 with Charles P. Johnson and Associates to provide project management services for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project to improve the ballfields at Schrom Hills Park and Braden Field. Recreation Director Greg Varda said these services are needed due to the hard deadlines associated with ARPA funding as well as the number of permits the city must obtain.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: In response to a review of the problems identified by resident Kevin Lockhart at a February 7 worksession, council unanimously approved contracts for a new door (\$14,225) and repainting the interiors of the Rec Center and Clubhouse (\$11,500).

Update

Varda reported on the renovations to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center playground. He is working to get a start date that will lead to project completion by mid-June. If that is not possible, the project will be deferred until the fall as the playground needs to be available for summer camps.

Municipal Building

Salmerón updated council on the planned renovations to the ground floor of the Municipal Building to make better use of its limited space. The renovations will create independent workspace for the Finance Department and Human Resources. Economic Development, Grants Coordinator and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, currently housed in this area, will move to the area being vacated by the Human Resources staff. The cost of the work is below the threshold requiring council approval, Salmerón said.

Mayor Emmett Jordan pointed out that the city is not yet on the

verge of building a new Municipal Building.

Zoning

Council unanimously approved sending an ultimately unsuccessful letter to the county council objecting to the proposed extension of the period in which developers and property owners can submit plans to be reviewed under the old zoning law. This period was set to expire on April 1, so a continuing resolution was being considered that would further extend this practice. Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby explained that staff recommends opposing this change as applicants have had enough time to adjust to the new zoning code. In addition, the new code contains provisions to protect and preserve the city’s historic district under the new Neighborhood Conservation Overlay zone, which the city had worked to have included. Only new applications are affected.

Assistant Director of Planning Jaime Fearer told the News Review that the county council approved a two-year extension at their March 26 meeting.

Camera Enforcement

Councilmember Jenni Pompei reported on proposed state legislation that would allow licensed civilians to review traffic infractions and issue citations. However, the proposal has been amended to allow this only for municipalities without police departments. To Pompei, this amendment defeats the purpose of the law.

Prior to the amendment, municipalities with police departments would be able to free up police officers from this task. Former councilmember Judith Davis told council that the amendment was to allow municipalities without police departments to implement speed cameras.

TheBus

Council, without discussion as part of the consent agenda, approved sending a letter to the county Department of Public Works and Transportation opposing the reduction in service for Route 11 (from 30 minutes between buses to 45 minutes). The letter noted that the proposed changes “would directly and adversely affect some of Greenbelt’s most vulnerable residents, including those living in Equity Emphasis Areas (EEA).” It explained that “EEAs are a regional planning concept adopted by the Council of Governments’ Board of Directors to elevate equity, and they comprise census tracts that contain higher concentrations of low-income or minority residents compared to the rest of the region.”

The reduction in service to Route 11 would be particularly harmful, per the letter, if the Metrobus route G12, which was designed to complement Route 11 is also cut, which has been proposed. The letter did support the proposed changes to Route 15X, which affect stops outside of Greenbelt and the implementation of a new Route 61, connecting Greenbelt and Laurel.



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New Deal Burger



GARDENING ESSENTIALS



Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 25-31, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one domestic disturbance, three mental health diversions and one death.

Robbery

On March 28 at 2:26 p.m. near 6001 Springhill Drive, a group of youths attempted to rob someone but were confronted and scared off by a neighbor. Officers arrested two suspects.

On March 30 at 8:29 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, a man was pushed to the ground and his wallet was stolen; the perpetrators were armed with handguns.

Fights

On March 27 at 4:43 p.m. near 6198 Greenbelt Road, two girls began to assault another girl at the mall. They were arrested and released to their guardian.

On March 31 at 1:31 a.m. near 13 Hillside Road, five men were fighting and left the scene in a silver vehicle; the same group had been yelling and drinking alcohol in the parking lot earlier. They were gone before officers arrived.

Sound of Gunshots

On March 27 at 7:18 p.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, officers were contacted about the sound of gunshots and searched the area; at 9:27 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a witness stated that five or six shots were fired from a blue van before it fled. No victims or shell casings were found.

Road Rage

On March 25 at 8:44 a.m. near Hanover Parkway and Greenbelt Road, a driver saw a man driving recklessly, pulled up next to him and exchanged words, and the man displayed a handgun. When the light turned green, the man sped away, and was not found.

Disorderly

On March 29 at 10:21 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman was yelling and creating a disturbance in a store. She refused to leave and was arrested.

Shouting Incident

On March 27 at 10:08 a.m. near 25 Crescent Road, a witness thought that two young people had shouted something derogatory. Investigation revealed that the word shouted was not a slur but a misheard name.

DUI Arrests

On March 26 at 10:25 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers stopped a vehicle with an expired tag and smelled alcohol on the driver, who had an outstanding warrant and was arrested.

On March 28 at 10:37 p.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway, a vehicle was stationary in the roadway with its hazard lights on, and open cans of beer in the center console. After sobriety tests, the driver was arrested for DUI.

Fraud Arrest

On March 27 at 1:12 p.m. near 7565 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested at a bank for attempting to cash a fraudulent check.

Theft

On March 25 at 4:18 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items; and at 2:27 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole multiple clothing items.

On March 26 at 2:57 p.m. near 6252 Greenbelt Road, a suspect loaded a duffel bag with shoes and clothes and left a store.

On March 27 at 9:25 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a wallet was stolen from a gym locker.

On March 29 at 2:57 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, three females stole various items and fled on foot; and at 3:16 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, four females entered the store with bags and stole merchandise.

On March 29 at 4:48 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man pushed a cart full of groceries past all points of sale without paying. He was fleeing when officers stopped him; all items were recovered, and the man was banned with charges pending.

On March 29 at 10:39 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, four females were seen gathering items, and officers caught them running out of the store with the items. Two were issued criminal citations; the other two were juveniles and their guardians were contacted. All four were banned.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

A black 2019 Chevrolet Corvette convertible was stolen March 27 near 6980 Hanover Parkway; a 2006 BMW 750LI (Md. 2CC3189) near 7700 Hanover Parkway; and a tan 2017 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 5FR5596) on March 28 near 9100 Springhill Lane. On March 29 near 9104 Springhill Lane, a 2019 Toyota Corolla (Md. 7DR5324) was reported stolen after it was taken without permission by someone in the residence. On March 30 near 6205 Springhill Drive, a vehicle was reported stolen but was actually towed.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On March 25 near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra had damage to rear windshield and ignition. On March 27 near 33 Ridge Road, a 2017 Kia Optima had a damaged door handle lock and ignition. On March 28 at 8:18 a.m. near 7810 Hanover Parkway, two young men were seen running from a vehicle that had damage indicating attempted theft.

Theft from Auto

Tags were stolen on March 26 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace; on March 29 near 7900 Vanity Fair Drive and near 8000 Lakecrest Drive; and on March 30 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive. A tag was scratched near 7800 Mandan Road.

On March 30 near 7710

Hanover Parkway, rims and tires were stolen from a 2024 Honda Civic.

On March 25, near 9170 Edmonston Road, a vehicle was broken into and items were stolen; and near 6100 Greenbelt Road, an unlocked 2000 Honda Civic had items stolen. On March 28 near 9110 Edmonston Court, a 2021 Toyota Camry had items stolen; a window was smashed by a rock left outside the vehicle. On March 28 near 5 Gardenway, a 2006 Toyota Sienna was rummaged through and items were missing; near 8100 Mandan Terrace, a Lexus GS300 trunk was opened and all the contents of the glove box and center console were pulled out and rummaged through; some items were recovered in the woods nearby. On March 30 near 125 Crescent Road, a ballistic vest was stolen from the back of an emergency vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On March 27 at 12:16 p.m. near 7600 Ora Glen Drive, a woman leaving the post office saw a man break her vehicle's window. She yelled, and the man fled without taking anything.

Windows were broken March 25 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace (with a large rock sitting on the floor); March 26 near 9100 Edmonston Court; March 29 near 9100 Edmonston Road; and March 30 near 6220 Breezewood Drive.

On March 30 near 6100 Breezewood Court, a 2019 Hyundai Kona door handle was damaged.

Family Royal Brunch At the Legion April 13

The Greenbelt Legion Auxiliary #136 is hosting a Royal Brunch on Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Boys and girls may dress in their finest royal attire if they choose. A full brunch will be served along with crafts, prizes, story time, music and a visit from some favorite Disney Princesses.

Adults and children over age 2 need to purchase tickets. Children under 2 are free. Tickets are limited and will not be sold at the door. Order them at eventbrite.com/o/greenbelt-unit-136-american-legion-aux-80282802103.

Email Frances Fendlay, fendlay@msn.com, for questions.

Greenbelters Throng to Fix Broken Belongings at March Repair Café

William Fishburne

Lounge chairs restrung, rockers repaired, tables re-legged. The MakerSpace Repair Café on Saturday, March 16 was a rousing success in the Granite Building, with so many participants that repairs spilled out into Roosevelt Center. Among enthusiastic greetings, as friends bumped into one another with a lamp or other piece of furniture that needed repair, the community gathered together once more to save broken items from the landfill and return them to service. From computer repair to sewing machine lubrication, the Repair Café volunteers consulted, analyzed and teamed to find solutions to problems. The ingenuity of this team leveraged glues, screws and even some epoxy to find a

way to make broken parts whole when breakage was the issue. Despite their best efforts, not everything got repaired, but many Greenbelters were able to donate as their possessions were mostly given new life. The day was balmy, and that certainly helped, but the good nature of Renna Komisar at the door welcoming all set a happy and vibrant tone. While Greenbelt councilmembers, like Mayor Emmett Jordan, slipped inside for a repair or two, others couldn't help but stop by, drawn by happy faces and Greenbelters doing what they do best – helping one another. A total of 26 repairs were completed in four hours that flew by, both for those in need of help and those who applied their skills to the tasks in front of them.

The SPACE: Free Art For All 2024 Programs

Join in commemorating five incredible years and a host of new community partners at The SPACE: Free Art For All. The organization is thrilled to kick off 2024 with an exciting lineup of fresh programs designed to inspire and engage.

Wednesdays: Beginners Music Classes in Ukelele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts), 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Fridays: Drum Circles with Rainbow Joe, 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturdays: Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m.

Sundays: Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For questions call 240-244-6115.

Create Matisse-inspired Artwork for all Ages

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites art makers of all ages to create colorful, cut paper collages inspired by Henri Matisse in a free Artful Afternoon workshop led by Greenbelt teaching artist Barbara Joann Combs. Advance registration is recommended.

Choose from four opportunities on two dates. Sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3TfSoKl> to participate on Sunday, April 7 at the Community Center. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3VfZ0Lq> to participate on Sunday, April 14 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

On each date, the workshop will run twice, from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. Participants under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult. All materials will be provided. Walk-ins will be welcome as space allows, and while supplies last. English language learners are encouraged to attend; staff will be equipped to engage with guests using Google Translate.

City of Greenbelt Arts programs are supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

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RECYCLING continued from page 1

illegal dumping to the city in labor and contract trash/recycling disposal, and the broader overall philosophy of the openness and availability of city-sponsored recycling.

Levels of Access

Councilmembers spoke up in favor of curbing illegal dumping while still allowing good access for homeowners but differed in how they thought both goals could be accomplished simultaneously. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was outspoken in defending open access to services that would encourage everybody to recycle – arguing that tightening the requirements, heightening security and restricting access would just result in more toxic waste dumped in the streams and woods. He felt that fences and gates would simply mean the debris got left at the gate instead of inside.

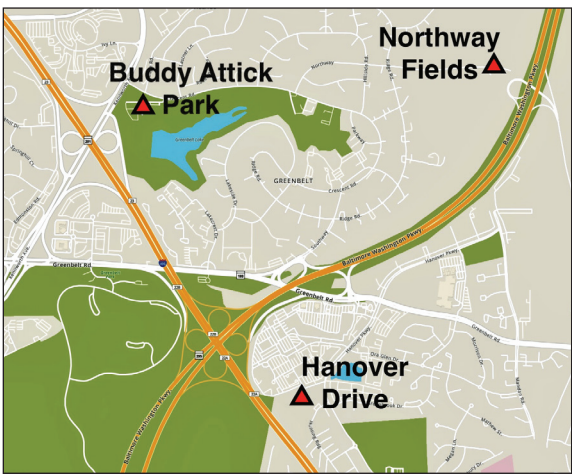
Mayor Emmett Jordan wanted homeowners to have access on the weekends as that would be when most of them had the time to recycle, whereas Carpenter-Driscoll advocated for business hours access only as a way to provide improved oversight because at those times, the sites were both accessible and monitored. Additionally, Carpenter-Driscoll advocated the same quarterly Saturday schedule for used oil collection as now exists for electronics recycling. Jordan doubted anybody wanted to keep used oil around until the next quarterly recycling day.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney was concerned about cost-benefit and wanted to know how much extra the various operations affected by illegal dumping were actually costing.

Oil Recycling

Carpenter-Driscoll promoted moving the oil recycling facility to a different location within the public works compound at Buddy Attick Park, fencing and gating it, installing cameras and limiting access most of the time to work-week hours with registered resident users having a keycode for access via an automatic gate. His plan included a new double-walled 500-gallon oil tank (furnished by the state) to replace the existing two 275 gallon single-walled tanks that are at the end of their useful life. The relocation and upgrade would involve around \$8K to \$9K in expenditures but would result in a facility that is more easily monitored.

Responding to questions from Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and McKinney, Carpenter-Driscoll noted that although the automatic gate was estimated to cost \$27,000, the costs to the city now associated with illegal and improper dumping of hazardous waste at the recycling center and the Northway site are considerably more. He spoke of the specialized contractors required to handle illegally dumped hazardous materials and/or the use of city staff in cleanup operations at an annual aggregate cost over \$50K. McKinney asked for data from last year to get a more exact cost. Roberts, Weaver and Pompei all objected to spending money on automated gates. Roberts felt they are an expensive item that requires ongoing maintenance and expense. Pompei



Greenbelt's three recycling locations

objected to the one in Greenbelt East because she felt it wouldn't solve the dumping problem and Weaver was concerned it was an unnecessary cost.

Northway Fields

The Northway site was also the subject of discussion with Roberts criticizing the city for dumping asphalt millings there that should have long-since been disposed of. Challenges with securing the site (which is a target for illegal dumping of construction waste) include shutting off the dump while still providing access for ballgames and the observatory. One proposal, for example, to place a gate near Ridge Road would mean scheduling openings for recreational activities, whereas gating and fencing only the area around the dump itself would not. Roberts stated once again that he thought fences and gates were pointless because people who were going to dump would do so anyway.

As a data point for comparison, council noted that the program providing free mulch to residents spends \$30,000 annually to use on the mulch grinder and staff time to manage the mulch pile.

Access and Technology

City Manager Josué Salmerón described the city's current thinking on controlling access and discouraging illegal dumping at the Northway Fields sites. With camera surveillance that notes vehicle tags, motion-activated lighting that spotlights vehicles approaching the gate (with due consideration to not scaring wildlife) and a gate that is shut (though not, in fact, actually locked) Salmerón felt, and council agreed, that dumping would be significantly discouraged. Council seemed to prefer a gate location closer to Ridge Road.

Longtime resident Tom Jones, a member of the Ultimate Frisbee group that has used Northway Field on Sunday mornings since 1993, explained that his group has occasionally seen a vehicle dumping and called the police. On one occasion, police intervened and made the miscreant reload the dumped materials.

Jones noted also that the field was in terrible shape. Resident Kevin Lockhart (Coach K) reinforced Jones' comment on the

state of the field, noting that in flag and regular football season, the Boys and Girls Club used that field Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He felt it was a real shame that Greenbelt kids had to play on such a substandard field.

In a historic note, William Orleans noted that Northway Fields is in fact the now grassed-over dump site for the city from when the original dump (in Greenbelt Park) was closed until the mid-1970s (waste now goes to the Prince George's County landfill at Brown Station Road near Upper Marlboro). Orleans asked if the site was healthy – whether materials buried there could be hazardous – but the question was not taken up.

Greenbelt East Facility

The city's suggestion is to enclose the Hanover Parkway facility (located near the dog park in Greenbelt East) with chain-link fence and an automatic gate (to allow independent access to contractors removing recycling). Contamination into the recycling bins is a significant issue, and as a result, the site is a big user of city staff time because it is so frequently misused.

Speaking from the floor, resident J Davis was adamant that the Hanover Parkway site is a failure. She said that so much miscellaneous stuff is dumped there that the contractor likely takes the dumpsters directly to the landfill and nothing at all gets recycled. She suggested that if the city is not going to invest in doing the Greenbelt East site properly, then they should just close it down because, she said, "It's not doing any good whatsoever."

Bulk Trash Day

Salmerón suggested a bulk trash day, where large items like mattresses could be put for disposal – and Jordan suggested it could be combined with other events. The cost is relatively easy to estimate. The idea resonated with council and will be researched. It should be noted that although those served by the city's municipal trash pickup can confidently leave large items for collection, many of the condominiums and rental apartments have private pickup services that are less forgiving, leaving residents with large items and no way to dispose of them.

In summing up by the mayor and city manager, it was clear that no action was to be expected in the near future except for the ongoing camera evaluation, but both appeared satisfied that enough clarification had been made that more planning and evaluation for improved recycling could commence.

Heifer Fair Celebrates Sheep, Raises Money to Benefit Charity

On Sunday, March 24, Greenbelt Community Church's Heifer Fair explored all things sheep. Heifer International is a charity organization that provides individuals in need around the world with farm animals (chickens, pigs, goats and sheep, as well as

cows) so they can raise food and sell goods. GCC's Sunday school team held a fair with a bake sale, crafts and wool demonstrations to collect money to buy sheep. The church collected more than \$1,700, enough to buy 14 sheep.



Joshua Littlefield and Barbara Ransom learn about spinning wool as Jan Derry demonstrates.



Will Wertz runs the rocking sheep craft station.



- Photos by Amy Hansen



This lovely hellebore (Lenten rose) demonstrates design imagination.

PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER



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Egg Hunt Fun at the GAFC



Children and adults enjoy the underwater egg hunt at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center on Friday, March 29.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

School News

Behind the Blueprint: Per-Pupil State Funding for County Schools

by Robert Stewart and Brendan Weissel

Behind the Blueprint is the Local News Network's comprehensive report on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the 10-year, multibillion-dollar plan to remake public education in the state. The Blueprint's "five pillars" are: hiring more skilled and diverse teachers, improving college and career readiness, expanding access to pre-K, bolstering school funding and ensuring that the Blueprint actually works. Behind the Blueprint includes summaries of the strengths, weaknesses and funding changes under the Blueprint plans of each of the state's 24 school districts. Here is the Local News Network's report for Prince George's County.

The state's per-pupil funding for Prince George's County Public Schools increased 36.4 percent between Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2024. That's the 11th largest increase among all 24 Maryland public school districts.

Per-pupil funding is based on a formula that utilizes the district's total enrollment and the characteristics of its students. It's too soon to know what the per-pupil funding level will be in the later years of the Blueprint.

Here's the district's initial Blueprint Implementation Plan and what the state Accountability and Implementation Board, which oversees the Blueprint, sees as the Plan's strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths

Prince George's County Public Schools has a comprehensive literacy plan, with support and interventions for struggling learners. The plan lays out clear expectations and action steps for educators to support student success. The district should examine additional ways to support young English-language learners struggling with literacy.

The district is strong at providing professional development for its teachers, including through expert-led workshops.

Prince George's County has a committee that helps find culturally responsive material for its diverse population. The district's equity team has created a method to help teachers incorporate culturally responsive material into their lesson plans.

Needs Improvement

Some of the district's instructional materials don't meet Blueprint standards. Prince George's County should balance classes that focus on core academic skills with courses that offer applied and experiential learning to engage students.

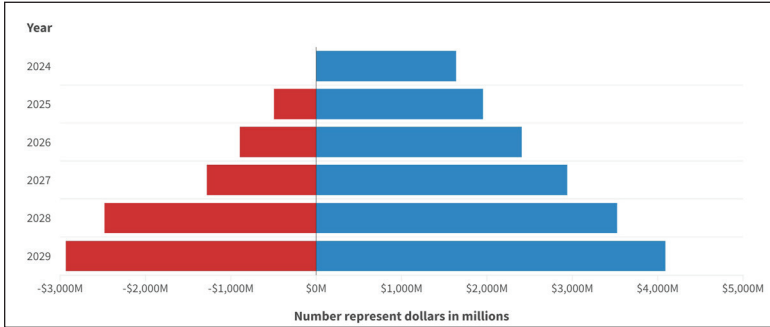
The district's plan to help

students who are falling behind needs to be refined. For example, the plan will need to address the district's teacher shortage and the role it will play in helping these students.

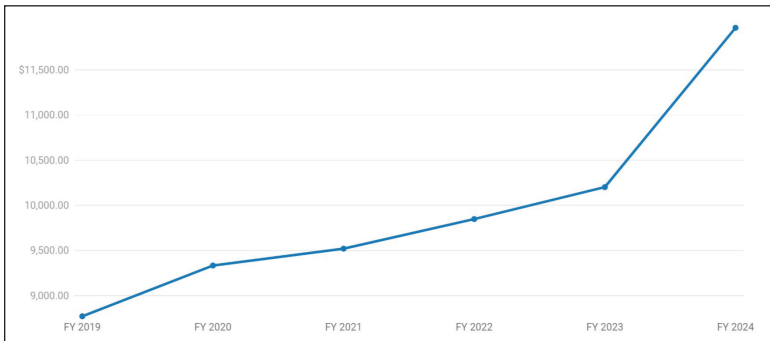
Despite innovative short-term solutions to address teacher shortages, such as utilizing consultants as teachers and partnership programs for professional development, long-term recruitment and support strategies are needed.

The district needs to develop a recruitment and retention strategy for math teachers to successfully implement its math plan.

Robert Stewart and Brendan Weissel wrote this article for Local News Network, a part of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism.



The structural deficit is represented in red and Blueprint costs in blue. Source data from Maryland Department of Legislative Services



The state's per-pupil funding for PGCPs increased 36.4 percent between fiscal years 2019 and 2024.



2024 Boxwood Village Scholarship Now Open

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year's recipient. For the application form and further information, email Pat McAndrew at pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net





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YARD/MOVING SALES

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH – Annual indoor yard sale, April 6, 10-1, come shop a treasure trove of nice clothing, accessories, housewares, books and gift items, bring a friend for a hot lunch, proceeds benefit women and children through approved United women in faith mission programs. Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Air Tigers Robotics Club Gets Engineering Inspiration Award



Air Tiger students at the First Robotics Competition (FRT) include Kelvin, Andrea, David, Hepzibah, Eric, Geby (team caption), Daryl, Temi, Sangeeth, Wilfred, Byron, Danny, Diego, Imeda and Brandon. Wilfred Nono is a mentor.

Air Tigers, a community robotics club, participated in the First Robotics Competition held at Archbishop Spalding High School in Severna Park and McDonough High School in Randallstown the last two weekends in March. Students from Bowie, Eleanor Roosevelt and DuVal High Schools and

other members attended. The Air Tigers won the Engineering Inspiration Award. Over the 25 years since the program was started at Eleanor Roosevelt students have made over 10 trips to the robotics championships and have won several medals, including the Dean's list twice.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.

Call for Sports News

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share? We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Volunteers Needed

The Greenbelt MakerSpace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is down the outside stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.

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Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.



Alums of Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team:

GMST is gauging interest in an alumni event this summer.

Survey at:
tinyurl.com/GMSTsurvey





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American Legion Post 136 Holds Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Games

by Butch Hicks



Shown are some of the approximately 100 children who participated in the American Legion Post 136 Easter Egg hunt. They are joined by, in back, from left, the Easter Bunny (Cory Micallef) and Officers Alvarez and Rahman. In back on the far right are GVFD Firefighter/EMT John Fraller, Post 136 Commander Greg Gigliotti and Post 136 Manager Julie Patterson.

On a Saturday with a just-right gray sky, comfortable temperature and an easy breeze, American Legion Post 136’s lawn became a fun arena for hundreds of children seeking multi-colored, chocolate-filled Easter eggs, having their faces painted, twirling in dancing contests and consuming hot dogs, chicken nuggets and other goodies.

As families arrived, the event main attraction, the Easter Bunny (a.k.a. Cory Micallef) made his appearance in a white costume with pink highlights and huge floppy ears. “The children’s eager excitement could be compared to Santa arriving on his sleigh,” Micallef said. The Easter Bunny, accompanied by Sparky the Fire Dog (Elle), danced, high fived and put big smiles on numerous children. “I enjoyed seeing their smiling faces,” Micallef said.

“Although my popularity waned some when the egg hunts started,” Sparky was busy as a constant attraction for the youngsters. One inquired of his dad, “Who is the puppy? What does he do?”

As time for the egg hunt neared, kids arranged in their age groups stretched across the Post’s front lawn. Ready to fill their containers, they leaned forward, eyeing the fields, trees and bushes – eager to begin. And then event organizer, Post Manager Julie Patterson, shouted “Go!” The extensive line burst into hundreds of multi-colored youngsters tearing across the green lawn. The accompanying roar was all laughter and the happy screams of egg hunters running and searching while filling baskets, bags and pockets.

“It was a day of community participation,” said Greenbelt

American Legion Post Commander Greg Gigliotti. “The American Legion family of Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary Unit; Greenbelt Police Department officers who displayed their official vehicles and made themselves available to answer questions; the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and its Auxiliary provided volunteers who coordinated the various activities for egg hunt participants. City Councilmember Silke Pope also attended the event.

As the egg hunt ended, participants headed out with children carrying loaded bags of sweet goodies. Gigliotti said, “We look forward to doing this event again next year. Post 136 will have another opportunity to collaborate with the community on mutual interests and sharing good will.”



At left, a youngster visits the Easter Bunny after getting his firefighter’s helmet compliments of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.



At right, Raelyn Lincoln, 2, visited the face painting stand and then collected her 1-year-old brother to continue their egg-hunting adventure.



Face painting was a popular activity during the American Legion egg-hunting event.

Golden Egg Winners at the Lake



Charlie Borg, center, wins the Golden Egg for grades 1 and 2 at the Egg Hunt at Buddy Attick Park on Saturday, March 30.



Henning Larson gets the Golden Egg for 4- and 5-year-olds at the Egg Hunt at Buddy Attick Park.



Zolani Maqubela wins the Golden Egg for grades 3 and 4 at the Egg Hunt.



Priscilla Brown takes the Golden Egg for ages 18 months to 3 years.

- Photos courtesy City of Greenbelt



- Photos by Butch Hicks